

Application Serial No.: 10/091,761  
Filing Date: March 6, 2002

Reply to Office action of: September 20, 2005  
Attorney Docket No.: YOR920010756US1

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A method for dynamically linking at least two dissimilar databases with dissimilar structures, comprising:

linking the two dissimilar databases by means of a pointers database that contains a smaller number of records than a number of records contained in either one of the at least two dissimilar databases;

the pointers database receiving instructions external to the at least two dissimilar databases, to effect relationships changes between the at least two dissimilar databases; and

in response to the external instructions, selectively changing pointers between records in the at least two dissimilar databases by changing records in the pointers database, without changing the records in the at least two dissimilar databases.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the number of records contained in the pointers database to the number of records contained in either one or the at least two dissimilar databases ranges between approximately 0.005% and 5%.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two dissimilar databases include a customer database and an organization database.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the customer database; and
    - in response to the change to the record in the customer database, selectively changing a pointer in the pointers database, without changing the records in the organization database.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the change to the record in the customer database comprises a change to any one or more of: status change, location, country of residence, importance of business relationship, volume of business, and credit worthiness.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the organization database; and
    - in response to the change to the record in the organization database, selectively changing a pointer in the pointers database, without changing the records in the customer database.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the change to the record in the organization database comprises a change to any one or more of: organization hierarchy type, branch office, responsibility, and geopolitical status.

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8. (Previously presented) A computer program for dynamically linking at least two dissimilar databases with dissimilar structures, comprising:
  - a first set of program instructions for linking the two dissimilar databases by means of a pointers database that contains a smaller number of records than a number of records contained in either one of the at least two dissimilar databases;
  - the pointers database receiving instructions external to the at least two dissimilar databases, to effect relationships changes between the at least two dissimilar databases; and
  - a second set of program instructions for changing pointers between records in the at least two dissimilar databases by changing records in the pointers database, without changing the records in the at least two dissimilar databases.

9. (Original) The computer program of claim 8, wherein a ratio of the number of records contained in the pointers database to the number of records contained in either one or the at least two dissimilar databases ranges between approximately 0.005% and 5%.

10. (Original) The computer program of claim 8, wherein the at least two dissimilar databases include a customer database and an organization database.

11. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 10, further comprising:

the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the customer database; and

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in response to the change to the record in the customer database, a third set of instruction codes selectively changes a pointer in the pointers database, without changing the records in the organization database.

12. {Previously presented} The computer program of claim 11, wherein the change to the record in the customer database comprises a change to any one or more of: status change, location, country of residence, importance of business relationship, volume of business, and credit worthiness.

13. {Previously presented} The computer program of claim 10, further comprising:

the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the organization database; and

in response to the change to the record in the organization database, a fourth set of instruction codes selectively changes a pointer in the pointers database, without changing the records in the customer database.

14. {Previously presented} The computer program of claim 13, wherein the change to the record in the organization database comprises a change to any one or more of: organization hierarchy type, branch office, responsibility, and geopolitical status.

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15. (Previously presented) A system for dynamically linking at least two dissimilar databases with dissimilar structures, comprising:

a pointers database for linking the two dissimilar databases, wherein the pointers database contains a smaller number of records than a number of records contained in either one of the at least two dissimilar databases;

the pointers database receiving instructions external to the at least two dissimilar databases, to effect relationships changes between the at least two dissimilar databases; and

in response to the external instructions, the pointers database selectively changes pointers in the pointers database, without changing the records in the at least two dissimilar databases.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein a ratio of the number of records contained in the pointers database to the number of records contained in either one or the at least two dissimilar databases ranges between approximately 0.005% and 5%.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least two dissimilar databases include a customer database and an organization database.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein further comprising:

the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the database; and

in response to the change to the record in the customer database, the pointers database selectively changing a pointer, without changing the records in the organization database.

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19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:  
the pointers database detecting a change to a record in the  
organization database; and  
in response to the change to the record in the organization database,  
the pointers database selectively changing a pointer, without changing the  
records in the customer database.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dissimilar structures include  
a hierarchical database structure and a relational database structure.

21. (New) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the  
dissimilar structures include a hierarchical database structure and a  
relational database structure.

22. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the dissimilar structures include  
a hierarchical database structure and a relational database structure.